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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/802,377	03/09/2001	Chang-Meng Hsiung	185641008010	8304

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EXAMINER

HARTMAN JR, RONALD D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2121

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2003

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 63-144 are presented for examination.
2. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement, in order to be complete, must include an election of the invention to be examined, even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).
3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Election/Restrictions

4. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 63-73, drawn to a method for monitoring a process controller, classified in class 700, subclass 1.
 - II. Claims 74-113 and 131-144, drawn to a knowledge based processing system, classified in class 706, subclass 45; and
 - III. Claim 114-130, drawn to a generic monitoring system using particular sensors, classified in class 702, subclass 1.

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5. The inventions are distinct, each from each other because of the following reasons: Inventions I, II and III are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, Invention I has separate utility such as in a system lacking the use of a knowledge processing system and in a system lacking the use of specific sensors (chemical, biological and radiation). Invention II has separate utility such as in a system lacking the use of the specific sensors (chemical, biological and radiation) and in a system lacking the use of a process controller. Invention III has separate utility such as in a system lacking the use of a process controller and in a system lacking the use of knowledge based processing system. See MPEP 806.05(d).

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

9. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II-III, and vice versa, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald D. Hartman Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 308-7001. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, 11:30 am – 8:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anil Khatri, can be reached at (703) 305-0282. The fax number for this examiner is (703) 746-5408.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9618.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 746-7240, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Ronald D. Hartman Jr.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2121
July 11, 2003

Ramesh Patel
RAMESH PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
7/13/03
For Anil Khatri